

Abstract 573

TITLE: Project TEACH: The Treatment Education and Access Center of Harlem

AUTHORS: Rivera, J

ISSUE: Comprehensive discharge planning services available for inmates are typically limited in nature. With millions of inmates released yearly from correctional settings and over 5 million individuals on probation and parole, it has become increasingly difficult for probation officers to ensure that inmates are accessing the services that they need to fully reintegrate into the community and to treat any current disease.

SETTING: New York State Department of Correctional Services and New York City Department of Correction.

PROJECT: Project TEACH does three things: 1) conducts education groups for people with HIV or AIDS; 2) trains staff of agencies which serve people with HIV/AIDS; and 3) works to understand people with HIV in our community. For jails and prisons in New York City and in New York, Project TEACH conducts peer-to-peer programs by ex-offenders with inmates about to be released. These programs include HIV prevention information, application process for social services, linkage of inmate to medical and substance abuse treatment providers, and family-skills training.

RESULTS: Results will be forthcoming and will not change conclusion.

LESSONS LEARNED: Evidence from this project suggests that health care provided in a correctional setting should be comprehensive and continuous upon release into the community in order to facilitate reintegration and prevent recidivism. Efforts by community-based organizations among soon-to-be-released inmates can reduce infectious disease rates, recidivism rates, and substance abuse and increase personal and familial responsibility toward a healthy well-being.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Jose Rivera

Address: Harlem Directors Group
271 W 125th St. Rm. 312
New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 531-0049